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Class of 2007 designates Habitat for Humanity house for senior gift

Furman University

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CHARLIE REGISTER

Class of 2007 designates Habitat for Humanity house for senior gift

Each year the graduating class donates a special gift to the university to commemorate its time at Furman. Recent classes have provided support for scholarships, campus facilities and a 9/11 memorial.

Given that Furman designated 2006-07 as the Year of the Environment and promoted sustainability and conservation throughout the year, the Class of 2007 decided to fund (and help build) an environmentally friendly Habitat for Humanity EarthCraft home.

Said Will Bryan, class president, "This is an opportunity to use our resources to help out a family in need and change their lives forever." A single mother with two adolescent sons will live in the home.

According to the company Web site, EarthCraft "is a green building program that serves as a blueprint for healthy, comfortable homes" by promoting sustainable, energy efficient construction. The home, located in nearby Travelers Rest, will be the state of South Carolina's first certified "green" Habitat house.

The primary source of funding for the Habitat project came through the \$200 housing deposits all students pay freshman year. Ordinarily the money is returned to students after they graduate, but seniors were asked to donate a portion of their deposit toward the class gift. Through March, 270 members of the class had made pledges, and supporting commitments from parents of seniors had pushed the total pledged to more than \$50,000.

"Although the gift does not necessarily give something physical back to the university, it helps out the community and thus benefits Furman," said Bryan. "It is an opportunity to use our resources for the good of society and not just those walking around Furman's campus."

Students began working on the house March 1. Construction was scheduled to be completed by the end of spring term.



JEREMY FLEMING



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